

MUNICIPAL PHYSICAL THERAPY REGULATIONS

CHAPTER 67 PHYSICAL THERAPY

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6700 GENERAL PROVISIONS

6700.1 This chapter shall apply to applicants for and holders of a license to practice physical therapy.

6700.2 Chapters 40 (Health Occupations: General Rules) 41 (Health Occupations: Administrative Procedures) of this title shall supplement this chapter.

6701 TERM OF LICENSE

6701.1 Subject to § 6701.2, a license issued pursuant to this chapter shall expire at 12:00 midnight of January 31st of each odd-numbered year.

6701.2 If the Director changes the renewal system pursuant to § 4006.3 of chapter 40 of this title, a license issued pursuant to this chapter shall expire at 12:00 midnight of the last day of the month of the birthdate of the holder of the license, or other date established by the Director.

6702 EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS

6702.1 Except as otherwise provided in this subtitle, an applicant shall furnish proof satisfactory to the Board that the applicant has successfully completed an educational program in the practice of physical therapy at an institution accredited by the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) at the time the applicant graduated, in accordance with § 504(j) of the Act, D.C. Official Code § 3-1205.04(j) (1985).

6702.2 An applicant shall submit with a completed application an official certified transcript of the applicant's educational record and certificate of graduation from the educational institution

6703 APPLICANTS EDUCATED IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES

6703.1 The Board may grant a license to practice physical therapy to an applicant who completed an educational program in a foreign country which program is not recognized by the APTA, if the applicant meets the following requirements:

- (a) Meets all requirements of this chapter except for § 6702.1; and
- (b) Demonstrates to the satisfaction of the Board that the applicant's education and training are substantially equivalent to the requirements of this subtitle and the Act in ensuring that the applicant is qualified to practice physical therapy by arranging for an evaluation of the applicant's education and practical training by the International Consultants of Delaware, Inc., or a successor organization.

6703.2 An applicant shall arrange for the evaluation required by § 6702.1(b) to be sent directly from the organization to the Board for receipt by the Board at least forty-five (45) days prior to the date of the applicant's examination required by § 6704.

6703.3 To qualify for a license under this section, an applicant shall have successfully completed a training program that meets the standards for accreditation of physical therapy programs of the APTA.

6703.4 The Board may interview an applicant under this section to determine whether the applicant's education or training meets the requirements of the Act and this chapter.

6703.5 If a document required by this chapter is in a language other than English, an applicant shall arrange for its translation into English by a translation service acceptable to the Board and shall submit a translation signed by the translator attesting to its accuracy.

6704 NATIONAL EXAMINATION

6704.1 To qualify for a license by examination, an applicant shall receive a passing score on the Physical Therapist Licensure Examination developed by the APTA.

6704.2 An applicant shall submit with a completed application the applicant's examination results, certified by the APTA, to the Board.

- 6704.3 The passing score on the national examination shall be seventy-five (75) on each test that forms a part of the examination.
- 6704.4 The Board shall only consider examination results after the applicant has passed all parts of the examination.
- 6704.5 An applicant shall take the first available National Physical Therapy Examination (NPTE) following submission of an application for a license in the District of Columbia.
- 6704.6 An applicant may practice physical therapy under the direct supervision of a physical therapist licensed in the District of Columbia while the application is pending.
- 6704.7 An applicant under § 6704.6 who fails the NPTE on the first attempt shall not continue to practice physical therapy under this section.
- 6704.8 An applicant who fails the NPTE after three (3) consecutive attempts shall demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Board that he or she has successfully completed additional clinical training or course work, or a combination thereof before taking the NPTE again.

6705 DISTRICT EXAMINATION

- 6705.1 To qualify for a license under this chapter, an applicant shall receive a passing score on a written examination developed by the Board on laws and rules pertaining to the practice of physical therapy (the District examination).
- 6502.2 The Board shall administer the District examination at least four (4) times a year.
- 6703.3 The District examination may consist of questions on general District laws pertaining to physical therapy including the Act, this chapter, and chapters 40 and 41 of this title.

6706 CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

- 6706.1 Subject to § 6706.2, this section shall apply to applicants for the renewal, reactivation, or reinstatement of a license for a term expiring January 31, 1991, and for subsequent terms.
- 6706.2 This section shall not apply to applicants for an initial license by examination, reciprocity, or endorsement, nor shall it apply to applicants for the first renewal of a license granted by examination.

- 6706.3 A continuing education credit shall be valid only if it is part of a program or activity approved by the Board in accordance with § 6707.
- 6706.4 An applicant for renewal of a license shall submit proof pursuant to § 6706.7 of having completed four (4) units of forty (40) hours of approved continuing education credit during the two-year period preceding the date the license expires.
- 6706.5 To qualify for a license, a person in inactive status within the meaning of § 511 of the Act, D.C. Official Code § 3-1205.11 (1985) who submits an application to reactivate a license, shall submit proof pursuant to § 6706.7 of having completed two (2) units of twenty (20) hours of approved continuing education credit for each license year after January 31, 1989, that the applicant was in inactive status, up to a maximum of twenty (20) units or two hundred (200) hours.
- 6706.6 To qualify for a license, an applicant for reinstatement of a license shall submit proof pursuant to § 6706.7 of having completed two (2) units or twenty (20) hours of approved continuing education credit for each year after January 31, 1989, that the applicant was in inactive status, up to a maximum of twenty (20) units or two hundred (200) hours.
- 6706.7 An applicant under this section shall approve completion of required continuing education credits by submitting with the application the following information with respect to each program:
- (a) The name and address of the sponsor of the program;
 - (b) The name of the program, its location, a description of the subject matter covered, and the names of the instructors;
 - (c) The dates on which the applicant attended the program;
 - (d) The hours of credit claimed; and
 - (e) Verification by the sponsor of completion, by signature or stamp.
- 6706.8 An applicant for renewal of a license who fails to submit proof of having completed continuing education requirements by the date the license expires may renew the license up to sixty (60) days after expiration by submitting proof pursuant to § 6706.7 and by paying the required additional late fee.
- 6506.9 Upon submitting proof and paying the late fee, the applicants shall be deemed to have possessed a valid license during the period between the expiration of the license and the submission of the required documentation and payment of the late fee.

6706.10 If an applicant for renewal of a license fails to submit proof of completion of continuing education requirements or pay the late fee within sixty (60) days after the expiration of applicant's license, the license shall be considered to have lapsed on the date of expiration.

6706.11 The Board may, in its discretion, grant an extension of the sixty (60) day period to renew after expiration if the applicant's failure to submit proof of completion was for good cause. For purposes of this section, "good cause" includes the following:

- (a) Serious and protracted illness of the applicant;
- (b) The death or serious and protracted illness of a member of the applicant's immediate family.

6707 APPROVED CONTINUING EDUCATION PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

6707.1 The Board may, in its discretion, approve continuing education programs and activities that contribute to the growth of an applicant in professional competence in the practice of physical therapy and which meet the other requirements of this section.

6707.2 The Board may approve the following types of continuing education programs, if the program meets the requirements of § 6707.3:

- (a) An undergraduate or graduate course given at an accredited college or university;
- (b) A seminar or workshop;
- (c) An educational program given at a conference; and
- (d) In-service training.

6707.3 To qualify for approval by the Board, a continuing education program shall do the following:

- (a) Be current in its subject matter;
- (b) Be developed and taught by qualified individuals; and
- (c) Meet one of the following requirements:

(1) Be administered or approved by a recognized national, state, or local physical therapy organization; health care organization; accredited health care facility; or an accredited college or university; or

(2) Be submitted by the program sponsors to the Board for review no less than sixty (60) days prior to the date of the presentation and be approved by the Board.

6707.4 The Board may issue and update a list of approved continuing education programs.

6707.5 An applicant shall have the burden of verifying whether a program is approved by the Board pursuant to this section prior to attending the program.

6707.6 The Board may approve the following continuing education activities by an applicant:

(a) Serving as an instructor or speaker at a conference, seminar, workshop, or in-service training;

(b) Publication of an article in a professional journal or publication of a book or a chapter in a book or publication of a book review in a professional journal or bulletin;

(c) Serving as a clinical instructor for students of physical therapy; or

(d) Participating in research as a principal investigator or research assistant.

6708 CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDITS

6708.1 The Board may grant continuing education credit for whole hours only, with a minimum of fifty (50) minutes constituting one (1) credit hour.

6708.2 For approved undergraduate or graduate courses, each semester hour of credit shall constitute fifteen (15) hours of continuing education credit, and each quarter hour of credit constitutes ten (10) hours of continuing education credit.

6708.3 The Board may grant a maximum of ten (10) continuing education credits per year to an applicant who attends in-service education programs.

6708.4 The Board may grant to an applicant who serves as an instructor or speaker at an acceptable program for both preparation and presentation time, subject to the restrictions in §§ 6708.5 through 6708.8.

6708.5 The maximum amount of credit that may be granted for operation time is twice the amount of the associated presentation time.

- 6708.6 The maximum amount of credit that may be granted pursuant to § 6708.4 is fifty percent (50%) of an applicant's continuing education requirement.
- 6708.7 If an applicant has previously received credit in connection with a particular presentation, the Board shall not grant credit for a subsequent presentation unless it involves either a different subject or substantial additional research concerning the same subject.
- 6708.8 The presentation shall have been completed during the period for which credit is claimed.
- 6708.9 The Board may grant an applicant who is an author or editor of a published book four (4) units of forty (40) hours of continuing education credit, if the book has been published or accepted for publication during the period for which credit is claimed and the applicant submits proof of this fact in the application.
- 6808.10 The Board may grant an applicant who is the sole author or co-author of a published original paper two (2) units or twenty (20) hours of continuing education credit, subject to the same restrictions set forth for books in § 6708.9.
- 6708.11 The Board may grant an applicant who is the sole author of a published book review, review paper, or abstract one (1) unit or ten (10) hours of continuing education credit, subject to the same restrictions set forth for books in § 6708.9.

6709-6710 [RESERVED]

6711 PRACTICE OF PHYSICAL THERAPY BY STUDENTS OR GRADUATES

- 6711.1 This section shall apply to the following:
- (a) Students enrolled in recognized schools or colleges as candidates for a degree in physical therapy; and
 - (b) Applicants for a license whose first application for a license in the District of Columbia is pending.
- 6711.2 A student or applicant may perform actions which require a license as a physical therapist only in accordance with the Act and this section.
- 6711.3 A student or applicant may practice physical therapy only under the direct supervision of a licensed physical therapist.
- 6711.4 A student or applicant shall identify himself or herself as a student or applicant at all times when performing actions of a physical therapist.

- 6711.5 A physical therapist supervising a student or an applicant shall be fully responsible for all of the actions performed by the student or applicant during the time of the supervision and is subject to disciplinary action for any violation of the Act or this chapter by the person supervised.
- 6711.6 A student or applicant may not be paid or receive compensation of any nature, directly or indirectly from a patient, except for a salary based on hours worked.
- 6711.7 A student or applicant shall be subject to all of the applicable provisions of the Act and this chapter. The Board may deny an application for a license by, or take other disciplinary action against a student or applicant who is found to have violated the Act or this chapter, in accordance with chapter 41 of this title.
- 6711.8 If the Board finds that a student or applicant has violated the Act of this chapter, the Board may, in addition to any other disciplinary actions permitted by the Act, revoke, suspend, or restrict the privilege of the student or applicant to practice.

6712 PHYSICAL THERAPY ASSISTANTS AND AIDES

- 6712.1 A physical therapist assistant or physical therapy aide may perform physical therapy functions only in accordance with this section
- 6712.2 A physical therapist assistant may perform the following functions under the direct supervision of a physical therapist:
- (a) Use of therapeutic exercise, mechanical traction, therapeutic message, compression, heat, cold, ultraviolet, water, and electricity;
 - (b) Measurement and adjustment of crutches, canes, walkers, and wheelchairs, and instruction in their use and care;
 - (c) Instruction, motivation, an assistance to patients and others in improving pulmonary function, learning, and functional activities such as pre-ambulation, transfer, ambulation and daily living activities; and the use and care of orthoses, prostheses, and supportive devices;
 - (d) Modification of treatment procedures as indicated by patient response and within the limits specified in the plan of care, and reported orally or in writing to the physical therapist; and
 - (e) Participation in routine administrative procedures required for a physical therapy service.
- 6712.3 A physical therapy aide may perform the following functions under the direct supervision of a physical therapist:

- (a) Gait practice;
- (b) Activities of daily living;
- (c) Transfer activities;
- (d) Hot or cold packs;
- (e) Infra-red;
- (f) Paraffin bath;
- (g) Whirlpool; and
- (h) Routine therapeutic exercises.

6712.4 A physical therapist assistant or physical therapy aide may not perform the following:

- (a) Interpret referrals;
- (b) Perform evaluation procedures;
- (c) Initiate or adjust treatment programs; or
- (d) Assume responsibility for planning patient care.

6712.5 A physical therapist may not have more than three (3) physical therapy aides or physical therapist assistants under his or her direct supervision at any one time.

6712.6 A physical therapist shall review and co-sign any documentation written by a physical therapy assistant or physical therapy aide.

6713 TEMPORARY LICENSES

6713.1 An applicant for a temporary license in accordance with § 4007 of chapter 40 of this title shall file an application the prescribed form and shall submit with the application the following:

- (a) The certified statement of a physical therapist that the applicant will practice under the direct supervision of the physical therapist during the time that the temporary license is effective;
- (b) Proof of successful completion of an educational program in the practice of physical therapy at an institution accredited by the APTA; and

(c) A sworn statement of intent to sit for the next qualifying examination.

6714 STANDARDS OF CONDUCT

- 6714.1 A physical therapist shall protect the patient's right to privacy by not divulging confidential information without consent of the patient or guardian unless required by law or unless, in the judgment of the physical therapist, the information is needed to protect the patient or the community.
- 6714.2 A physical therapist shall provide information about fees upon request by the patient.
- 6714.3 A physical therapist who has information of illegal or unsafe practice of physical therapy shall promptly report the information to the Board.
- 6714.4 Any holder of a license under this Chapter or any person authorized to practice physical therapy or to perform physical therapy functions under this Chapter shall comply with the standards of ethical and professional conduct established by the American Physical Therapy Association in its publications entitled "Code of Ethics" and "Guide for Professional Conduct," as they may be amended or republished from time to time.

6799 DEFINITIONS

- 6799.1 As used in this chapter, the following terms have the meanings ascribed:

Applicant – a person applying for a license to practice physical therapy under this chapter.

Board – the Board of Physical Therapy, established by § 209 of the Act, D.C. Official Code § 3-1202.09 (1985).

Direct supervision – the supervision in which a physical therapist is available on the premises and within vocal communication either directly or by a communications device.

Physical Therapist – a person licensed to practice therapy under the Act.

Physical therapy aide – a person trained by a physical therapist to perform designated routine tasks related to the operation of a physical therapy service under the direct supervision of a physical therapist.

Physical therapy assistant – a graduate of a physical therapy assistant program accredited by an agency recognized by the Secretary of the Department of

Education or the Council of Postsecondary Accreditation who performs selected physical therapy procedures and related tasks under the direct supervision of a physical therapist.

6799.2 The definitions in §4099 of Chapter 40 of this title are incorporated by reference into and are applicable to this chapter.